absent during the succeeding one, but will sometimes be found again at a later period. In this way he says that the length of time the corpse has been buried can be definitely ascertained from the insects found infesting it. Mr. Marlatt doubted that any kind of insect which once infested a corpse would leave it for a certain length of time and then return. He also doubted that data obtained in this way could be implicitly relied upon, since the conditions are so seldom the same.

In regard to the manner in which the insects gain access to the corpse, Mr. Hubbard stated that in the case of the Diptera the eggs were evidently deposited on the outside of the coffin or casket before burial and the young larvæ made their way through any small opening. He did not believe it possible for the young larva to make its way through the soil after burial. Dr. Stiles stated that he does not agree with the conclusions arrived at by the author of the work in question, but thought that the field was a very interesting one and desired to bring it to the attention of entomologists.

—Mr. Coquillett presented for publication in the Proceedings the following paper:

A NEW DIPTEROUS GENUS RELATED TO GNORISTE.

By D. W. Coquillett.

In a small collection of Diptera recently received from Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell is a Mycetophilid having an extremely long proboscis. The only described genus having this character so far reported as occurring in our fauna is *Gnoriste* Meigen. But the present form differs from the latter genus in having the palpi attached to the proboscis near its base instead of near its apex, and the fourth vein forks far beyond the forking of the fifth instead of almost opposite it. The new form will be easily recognized by the accompanying figure and description:

Eugnoriste new genus.—Head small, much narrower than the thorax; antennæ slightly longer than the thorax, filiform, pubescent, sixteen-jointed; proboscis rigid, filiform, directed downward and backward, longer than the head and thorax taken together; palpi four-jointed, the first joint very short, the second as long as the two following taken together; three ocelli; eyes deeply emarginate next the antennæ. Coxæ nearly as long as height of thorax, legs destitute of strong bristles, spurs at tips of

tibiæ well developed. Wings bare, costal vein reaching half way from tip of third vein to apex of upper branch of the fourth, auxiliary vein obsolete toward its apex, third vein not forked, fourth issuing from the fifth close to the base and forking far beyond the base of the third; fifth vein forking near its base. Type, the following species:

FIG. 24.—*Eugnoriste occidentalis* Coq.—greatly enlarged (original).

Eugnoriste occidentalis new species.—♀—Head and thorax black, subshining, antennæ, proboscis, palpi and halteres blackish brown; abdomen dark brown, sutures of the segments yellow; legs, including the coxæ, yellowish, tarsi brown toward the tips. Wings hyaline, veins brown, second section of fourth vein sub-obsolete. Length 2.5 to 3 mm. Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Three specimens collected June 8, by Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell.

SPECIAL MEETING, DEC. 26, 1895.

A meeting of the Society was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club under the auspices of the Joint Commission of the Scientific Societies of Washington. Major J. W. Powell of the Joint Commission presided, and 25 other persons were present.

The retiring President, Mr. Ashmead, then delivered his annual address: